

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the underlying bill. It is interesting to listen to my friends on the Democratic side of the aisle make up excuse after excuse why we should do nothing about getting this economy moving again. We have to remember why we are here. Our Nation is at war against terrorism. We are building our homeland security, and we are in an economic recession, and winning the war against terrorism requires getting our economy moving again.

Almost a million Americans have lost their jobs since the terror attack on September 11, tens of thousands in the area that I represent around Chicago, and we know that terrorists directly attacked our economy.

We have to work in this Congress to help those who are unemployed. The plan that the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) has brought before us is more generous than what we passed before. It is more generous than what the Senate sent over last week, and I would note that no one falls through the cracks under this plan, and this plan also provides the opportunity to give confidence back to investors and consumers who lost it after the terror attacks.

Twice this House has acted to get this economy moving again. We must give workers the opportunity to go back to work, and that is why we need to pass this legislation again today.

Investment drove this economy in the past decade, creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs. The stimulus and economic security package that is before us today rewards investment and the creation of jobs. This plan includes the 30 percent expensing, accelerated depreciation as well as giving small business the opportunity to expense more, up to \$40,000, and when my colleagues think about it, what this means to workers is that when a business or employer buys a computer or buys a pickup truck, there is a manufacturing worker somewhere who made that product. There is also someone who is going to install it. There is someone who is going to service it, and, of course, someone who is going to operate that piece of equipment, and accelerated expensing and accelerated depreciation will help. It also helps homeland security, making it easier to afford safety and security equipment.

The bottom line is we need to get the economy moving again. Let us give American workers the opportunity to go back to work. Let us pass this bipartisan economic stimulus and economic security plan.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

That is very peculiar logic on the other side. The Senate has sent us a 13-week extension. If the other side does not want the 13-week extension, let us have a vote as the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) has asked on the 13-week extension, and they can vote no. Let them vote no, but they do not have

the courage to do that. Instead they are denying us a vote on the 13-week extension in the guise of we have got something much better.

Well, something much better is not going to happen, and we can argue about whether it is better, but if they do not want the 13 weeks today, then let us have a vote on that, and let them vote no against the 13 weeks extension.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the bill that is before us today is almost savage in its insensitivity to the plight of American families who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, the plight of the American worker who lost their job before September 11 and found job-hunting much more difficult after September 11, the people who have lost their job since September 11 and do not qualify for any unemployment benefits because of all of the loopholes that have been riddled in this system. It is savage in its insensitivity to what these families are going through.

I have had an opportunity to meet with unemployed workers in Los Angeles and Indiana and New Jersey, people who have worked for 15 or 20 years, and their job disappeared through no fault of their own because of terrorism, because of an economic downturn, and now they find themselves without any resources. Unemployment is running out, 11,000 people a day. While my colleagues are on recess, 120,000 people will lose their unemployment benefits. More people exhausted their unemployment benefits in December than any time since 1973.

What does this Congress do? What does the Republican leadership do? It insists, it insists upon playing ping-pong back and forth with the future and the lives and the well-being of these American families.

Thirteen weeks of unemployment insurance for those people running out of unemployment who have exhausted their benefit is available today, but the Republican leadership is going to play ping-pong. We are going to send it back to the Senate and go home. Happy Valentine's Day.

Listen to the unemployed. Maybe my colleagues do not spend much time with them. Listen to the people who talk about invading their 401(k)s, their IRAs to try to save the mortgage, to try to say save their automobiles so they can continue to look for work. Listen to these individuals who are lining up never before in their life in food pantries so they can feed their families. Listen to the people who are working at the margins in the hospitality industry. They have no savings. They have no rainy day fund. They have no place to go, no credit. They were working at the margins. When that unemployment check stops, if even they are

qualified, the music stops for them and their families.

Listen to the young truck driver out there who is working for Sunkist when it went bankrupt, laid them off, 15 years. He finally bought a house in Los Angeles. Now he was scrambling, begging his extended family, his friends to meet the mortgage payment. He invaded his retirement to make the mortgage payment. All he did was lose much of his retirement value down the road. No insensitivity at all on my colleagues' part for these families, for these workers, for these employees who have been thrust into this system where they get no benefits. No, my colleagues are going to send the bill to the Senate and go home, to go home and turn their back on the American worker.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH).

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I actually had a written statement to present, but I have been listening to this debate, and frankly I am outraged.

As I listened to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) accuse us of turning our backs on the worker, I look at their side of the aisle and have seen how many times since last fall they have voted down or tried to vote down an economic stimulus package. As for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) and his concern that there is not going to be a vote on that defenestrated piece of legislation that was sent over here from the Senate, let me help him with this.

The Senate will not even allow a vote on our stimulus package. They have been bottling this up now for months and months. Fifty bills held up in the Senate and they will not let them free, and frankly, it is on their heads what is happening to American workers, and I say this because in one region of my district alone the manufacturing sector has been hemorrhaging, a total of more than 4,000 jobs in less than 18 months. These job losses have dealt a \$100 million blow to our region's economy, and the picture throughout my district looks like the rest of western Pennsylvania and more and more like the rest of the country.

During a single week in December, the number of workers receiving unemployment benefits who could not find new jobs rose by over 300,000 to over 4 million, the biggest 1-week jump in 27 years, and meanwhile, the Senate and some of our friends on the other side of the aisle are playing the usual political game.

Every day we fail to sign the economic stimulus package into law that the President asked us to pass months ago, it is another day where a worker or a dozen workers or a hundred workers are laid off or a business closes its doors. The statistics do not tell the whole story. American workers need help. They need help now. We have neighbors in need. We should act. Pass